

# Spark Gap

Volume 25, Issue 7, July 2008 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

## Flood, Festival & Field Day



Jack Parker, W8ISH,  
President, MARC

*The Official  
Newsletter of the  
Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club  
P. O. Box 836  
Franklin, IN 46131  
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**Flood.** For the first time in 100 years, no make that 500 years, Johnson County authorities were swamped with calls for help. Nearly a foot of rain fell across Johnson County and most of the counties in south central Indiana. By 7AM Saturday morning, June 7th, county emergency management personnel knew

they had a serious problem. By 8AM, EMA Director Tug Sutton activated RACES. Jack, W8ISH, and Dave, KB9LOT, made their way through rapidly rising waters to staff the EOC radio room. Radio coverage from the EOC into the new repeater was poor at best. A faulty antenna forced Jack & Dave to relay messages through Brenda KC9EBL, operating from her home in Franklin. The American Radio Relay League would have been proud of our efforts. Our flood net secured about 12 hours later.

During the course of the day 18 Amateur Radio operators across the county reported high water that closed dozens of roads. Their reports were inputted into the county WebEOC computer system. It gave county officials a better idea of which roads were passable. The input from hams proved invaluable. All county emergency resources were tied up with high water rescues.

By 10AM, county commissioners had declared a state of emergency. Amateur Radio operators were encouraged to use caution and continue to report flooded roads. At last count, eight county bridges were closed and dozens of county roads severely

damaged. By noon Princes Lake Dam breached spilling millions of gallons of water through the levy. Dozens of residents were rescued from the lake region and other parts of Johnson County.

Franklin PD lost their dispatch center and offices late in the afternoon. County officials watched helplessly as live video from news choppers showed Franklin dispatchers being rescued by boat. The damage to Johnson County and its citizens is in the millions of dollars. EMA Director Tug Sutton praised the work of Amateur Radio operators in helping with damage assessment and keeping the lines of communication open during the great flood of '08. -w8ish

**Strawberry Festival.** Sunny skies and warm temperatures provided a great day to hold the annual White River Township Fire Department Strawberry Festival. MARC members took advantage of the weather and crowds to demonstrate Amateur Radio.

The ARRL Flag flew from the pole in front of Pleasant Grove Elementary School. Most festival visitors did not notice the 40-meter sloper attached to the halyard. Steve-K9DY was working SSB contacts warming up for the Field Day marathon. Chris-KG6IZJ sat nearby with a desk mic working 20-meters using a R7 vertical antenna. Both powered their radios deep cycle batteries. Jack-W8ISH provided the 12 x 12-foot tent. Linda-KC9GCH came prepared with small tables, chairs and lots of Amateur Radio info for the guests.

The sunny weather and lots of fresh strawberries and ice cream beckoned the

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# Flood, Festival & Field Day

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crowd. Also on hand was club VP Dave Daily-KB9LOT, Marc- KC9CCM, Dennis-KC9CCO, Bob-KC9NJM and Dave-KA9OOH. Paul-AA9GY and Brenda-KC9EBL rounded out the group of hams entertaining the public. Linda's info and a friendly greeting by all concerned may have convinced several interested visitors to join our next Tech class beginning July 22nd.

-w8ish

**Strawberry Festival - Part 2.** During the Strawberry Festival, Steve Carmean, K9DY, used a Ten Tec Scout 555 @ 50 watts on 40 meters for sSB and CW. The antenna was a 40 meter, Par End-Fedz sloper attached to a flagpole on end and a tree on the other. Portable power was supplied by a 12 volt deep cycle battery. Conditions were poor but Steve contacted stations in West Virginia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Texas, Minnesota, and Missouri with this setup. Chris Frederick, KG6ZIJ, operated on 20 meters using a Kenwood TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF radio, a Cushcraft R-7, 40M - 10M antenna and a Radial-Larsen NMO 2/70 (2M-70cm) antenna. Chris was able to make two contacts, once a special event station and another station in Idaho.

**Field Day.** The June 28, 2008 ARRL Field Day operation for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club took place in Craig Park in Greenwood. That morning, a few (fool) hardy individuals assembled at the Greenwood VFW post. Club members had to circumvent various roadblocks to avoid the Safety Festival parade. It seemed every possible access road to the Field Day site was closed for the parade.

Bob, KC9NJM, was the first to arrive, followed by Steve, K9DY, and Linda, KC9GCH. Marc, KC9CCM, and Steve, N9LC arrived later. We waited a couple hours for the arrival of the Johnson County communications van to begin setting up. We

wanted to be near the van and use it as our base of operation. The van was finally parked near the ball fields around 11 A.M. Greenwood Police allowed us to park our vehicles near the van so we could begin Field Day setup.

We used 20 and 40 meter wire antennas, strung at 10-15 feet up in trees. Our primary HF radio was a Ten Tec Scout with 50 watt output SSB using battery power for all our contacts.

Due to high winds and threatening thunderstorms, we set up on a card table near the rear of an open SUV in case we had to close station on short notice. We made a few test contacts prior to the official start time to make sure we were "on the air". Most reports were 5-9.

When the official time came, it quickly became apparent we were at a disadvantage in the pileups. Our rig and antennas were quite modest compared with the competition, but we persevered. We only operated for about two and a half hours and managed to get 14 contacts with 12 sections in 12 states. Linda conducted tours of the command vehicle and did P.R. as visitors inquired as to what we were doing.

We did have one surprise from Mother Nature. Just after getting set up a large tree branch fell into the parking lot two slots from our operating position. It was left hanging from a previous storm. Strong winds on Field Day caused it to come loose and crash down where one of our vehicles had been parked minutes earlier. That woke us up. We were now alert and ready to go. It seems like a good field day has to be fought against natural hazards. Next year we may abandon the safety of the Greenwood Safety Festival and find a remote spot out with nature to conduct Field Day 2009. -Steve K9DY ■

# Flood Photos



Some of the action in the Johnson County EOC. Photo by Jack Parker, W8ISH.



Tug Sutton, EMA Director, in action at the Johnson County EOC. Photo by Jack Parker, W8ISH.



# Strawberry Festival Photos



# Field Day Photos



## ARRL Section News

**IN-ARRL Bulletin 12-2008: July 2, 2008.** Nominations for the Indiana Section Manager position were resolicited in the July issue of QST for an 18-month term of office beginning in January 2009. If you know of anyone appropriate for this position, please check out the information in the July QST. This will be the second round of nominations for the Indiana Section.

Currently nominations have been received for John Poindexter, W3ML, and Ray Andrews, K9DUR for the position of Indiana Section Manager. Nominations for this position are closed after September 5th, 2008. An election will be held later this fall. You must be an ARRL member to vote in this election. You can join the ARRL or renew your membership by going to the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org> and signing up there.

..Brian Murrey, KB9BVN, IN-ARRL  
Bulletin Manager

## Officers

**President:**  
Jack Parker,  
W8ISH

**Vice President:**  
Dave Daily,  
KB9LOT

**Secretary:**  
Carol Osborne,  
KC9CFK

**Treasurer:**  
Steve Carmean,  
K9DY

**Repeater Trustee:**  
Jay Chrisman,  
AA9YP

**Spark Gap Editors:**  
Bob LaGrange,  
N9SIU

**Linda  
Harshbarger,  
KC9GCH**

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## Silent Key

### W9MLN SK Dan Cammack

Our club has lost another wonderful member. Wednesday, June 18, 2008, Dan Cammack W9MLN passed away at the age of 75. Dan was a very active club member from the beginning. He helped Elmer many of us as we struggled to understand what makes radios work. Dan usually was first to start setting up Field Day and the last to leave. Following his retirement Dan and his wife Sandy moved to Scottsville, KY. Again he was very active with their local club.

Dan's son, Bob Cammack, N9IMP, was MARC club president in 1992 and together they took Field Day organization to another level. We still use Bob's everything you need for Field Day, but were afraid to forget" checklist. Copies are available upon request.

..Jack Parker, W8ISH



### W9MLN SK Dan Cammack

## Last Minute News

From the Editor: Ripley County Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) will be holding their 1st annual Tailgators Hamfest on Saturday, August 23, 2008. The Hamfest will be held at the Ripley County 4H Fairgrounds in Osgood, Indiana.

Talk-in frequency is +441.775. Set up is at 7 AM; gates open at 8 AM until 4 PM. Entry fee is \$3.00 per person; parking is free.

For more information, contact Delbert at [wy9l.thebigdog@gmail.com](mailto:wy9l.thebigdog@gmail.com) or call 812-689-3161. Check out their website at [www.441775.com](http://www.441775.com).

For a complete listing of 2008 remaining Indiana hamfests, contact Linda at [kc9gch@arrl.net](mailto:kc9gch@arrl.net). If you have an event that you wish listed, contact Linda at the above e-mail address and if possible, attach a copy of the flyer. 2009 event information is currently being compiled.

## IRCC News

The next meeting of the Indiana Radio Club Council (IRCC) will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the WISH-TV studios in Indianapolis, IN.

All Indiana clubs are invited to join and participate in the IRCC. Each member club may send club representatives to the biannual meeting. All interested attendees will be treated to a tour of the WISH-TV studios by Jack Parker, W8ISH.



## Hamfest Info

The **38th annual Indianapolis Communications & Technology Expo and Hamfest** will take place on July 12, 2008 at Camp Sertoma, US 52 and German Church Road, Indianapolis, IN. Gates open at 6 AM EDT. Talk-in will be on the 146.76 (-600) repeater.

Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the gate. Children under 12 are admitted free. Go to [www.indyhamfest.com](http://www.indyhamfest.com) for more information or call 317-261-6658 and leave a message.

The **38th Lafayette Hamfest** takes place on August 17, 2008 at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, 1401 Teal Road (SR 25), Lafayette, Indiana. Times are from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00 with children under 12 admitted free. The Hamfest is at the north end of the fairgrounds (by the YMCA) in the Home Economics building. Talk-in frequency will be on the W9REG repeater 147.135+ MHz (88.5 PL). More information is available at [www.w9reg.org](http://www.w9reg.org).

The **Owen-Monroe Amateur Radio Hamfest** will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Owen County Fairgrounds in Spencer, IN. This hamfest is co-sponsored by the Owen County Amateur Radio Association and the Bloomington Amateur Radio Club. General admission is \$5.00. Talk-in will be on the KB9MZZ repeater 146.985 MHz (136.5 Hz PL). For more information contact Katie Smith, K9INU, at e-mail [k9inu@arrl.net](mailto:k9inu@arrl.net).

The **2nd Annual East Center Illinois Hamfest** will be held on Sunday, August 24, 2008 at the Vermilion County Fairgrounds in Danville, Illinois. Hamfest hours are from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM CDT. Directions: I-74 to exit 210, turn left, 1/4 mile on right. Follow signs for fairgrounds. Talk-in is at W9MJL/R 146.820 - MHz (88.5 Hz PL). Admission is \$5.00 with children 12 and under free. For more information go to [www.vcara-hamfest-info](http://www.vcara-hamfest-info).

## VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. For directions to the meeting and/or test site, please check out our website at [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org).

## Technician Class

Classes begin Tuesday, July 22, 2008 and continue on July 29th, August 5th and August 12th. Classes will again be held at the White River Township Fire Department #51 training room. If you are interested in taking a class or know someone who is interested, please call Linda at 887-2558 or e-mail to [kc9gch@arrl.net](mailto:kc9gch@arrl.net). Let Linda know if you need a copy of the textbook, "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual". Parking is available at the rear of the building. Enter through the rear door, classroom is in the basement training room. If enough students request testing at the end of the last evening, MARC will schedule in the VEC team.

## Volunteer Info

MARC's next event (as scheduled) will be the Greenwood High School Band Contest in September where volunteers are needed to direct traffic, park cars and provide communications. To volunteer, please contact Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, at [N9SIU@yahoo.com](mailto:N9SIU@yahoo.com) or Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH, at [pio@midstatehams.org](mailto:pio@midstatehams.org). I'm sure Bob won't mind getting volunteers lined up early this year.

**WA9RDF  
Repeater  
146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
151.4 Hz PL  
Tone**

**Weekly Net  
Every Sunday  
at 7PM ET**

***Tune in to hear  
the ARRL  
Newsline!***

*The Mid-State  
Amateur Radio Club  
sponsors a weekly  
traffic and social net  
on our repeater. The  
net begins at 7:00  
p.m. local time, and  
features local news,  
announcements, and  
NTS traffic, as well as  
rebroadcasts of  
Amateur Radio  
Newsline. This is a  
great chance to  
meet other local  
amateur radio  
operators and test  
your operating  
skills.*

# 2008 Schedule of Events

## JULY 2008

### 4 Independence Day

### 12 38th Annual Communications & Technology Expo (Indianapolis Hamfest)

Opens at 6:00 AM; US52 & German Church Rd, Indianapolis, IN

### 19 MARC Meeting - 8 AM

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

**Please note:** Marc Snell KC9CCM, will bring his MFJ Antenna analyzer to the July meeting. He will talk about how it works and then test HT and mobile antennas for those in attendance.

### 22 Technician Class #1, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

White River Township Fire Station #51, SR 135 South at Olive Branch Road, Greenwood,

IN

### 29 Technician Class #2, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

White River Township Fire Station #51, SR 135 South at Olive Branch Road, Greenwood,

IN

## AUGUST 2008

### 5 Technician Class #3, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

White River Township Fire Station #51, SR 135 South at Olive Branch Road, Greenwood,

IN

### 12 Technician Class #4, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

White River Township Fire Station #51, SR 135 South at Olive Branch Road, Greenwood,

IN

### 16 MARC Meeting - 8 AM

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

### 17 38th Annual Lafayette Hamfest, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Lafayette, IN

### 23-24 Indianapolis Air Show

Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at [www.Indyhams.org](http://www.Indyhams.org) for more information or to volunteer

### 23 Owen-Monroe Amateur Radio Hamfest, 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Owen County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IN; Talk-in on 146.985 MHz (136.5 PL)

### 24 2008 East Central Illinois Hamfest, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Vermilion County Fairgrounds, Danville, IN; Talk in on W9MJL/R 146.820 MHz (88.5 PL)



Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club

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317.887.2558

*Spark Gap*

## Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

**See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.**